

To: Washburn, Ben[washburn.ben@epa.gov]
From: Quirarte-Ortiz, Cecilia
Sent: Wed 1/28/2015 12:19:57 AM
Subject: RE: OPA Daily Digest 1/27/15

Posted

From: Washburn, Ben
Sent: Tuesday, January 27, 2015 4:25 PM
To: Albano, Emily; Bond, Shannon; Bryan, David; Carey, Curtis; Castro, Toni; Fenton, Kathleen; Kessler, Martin; Lancaster, Kris; Morrison, Denise; Peterson, Mary; Quirarte-Ortiz, Cecilia; R7 Deputies; R7 Senior Staff; Sanders, LaTonya; Slugantz, Lynn; Washburn, Ben; Whitaker, Dianna; Whitley, Christopher
Subject: OPA Daily Digest 1/27/15

OPA Daily Digest for 01/27/15

Congressional Inquiries:

Rep. Sam Graves (Mo.) – Email – 1/26/15: Constituent concerns about LUSTs from two gas stations adjacent to his property. Due: 1/28/15. Contact: LaTonya Sanders, 7555 (closed)

State Government Inquiries:

Rep Bill Otto (Mo.) – Phone – 1/23/15: Requesting telephone conversation regarding off-site air monitoring data. Contact: Ben Washburn, 7364 (open)

Press Inquiries:

KWMU Radio (St. Louis Public Radio) – Veronique LaCapra – 1/27/15: Requesting additional

off-site data from the West Lake Landfill off-site air monitoring system. Contact: Ben Washburn, 7364 (open)

Environmental Stories:

Waste 360 - Republic Has Long Tried to Contain the Effects of the Bridgeton Landfill Fire - 1/26/15 - lawsuit - 1/26/15 - The operational challenges involving the Bridgeton landfill in Missouri didn't begin with the class action lawsuit filed in 2013. In fact, Republic Services has already invested more than \$125 million to control the impacts of the pyrolysis at Bridgeton. <http://waste360.com/operations/republic-has-long-tried-contain-effects-bridgeton-landfill-fire>

Kansas City Star - Business KCP&L unveils environmental sustainability project - 1/26/15 - Kansas City Power & Light Co. is embarking on a big environmental sustainability project — the Clean Charge Network. During the next several months, KCP&L will install and operate more than 1,000 electric vehicle charging stations throughout the greater Kansas City area. <http://www.bizjournals.com/kansascity/news/2015/01/26/kcp-l-unveils-environmental-sustainability-project.html>

St. Joseph News-Press - KCP&L launches local car charging stations - 1/27/15 - Kansas City Power & Light and Northwest Missouri vaulted headlong Monday into the budding electric vehicle industry. The utility gathered project partners at its headquarters in Downtown Kansas City to announce plans to install and operate more than 1,000 electric vehicle charging stations in the area, to be known as the Clean Charge Network. http://www.newspressnow.com/news/local_news/article_f9e0be2a-473a-569f-b422-5537f8e8e1c0.html

Kansas City Star - KCP&L plans to install 1,001 more chargers for electric cars - 1/27/15 - KCP&L announced Monday that with one jolt it's going to make the area one of the best places in the nation to drive an electric car. The utility said it plans to install 1,001 public electric chargers in its Missouri and Kansas service territories — a 2,400 percent boost from the roughly 40 units now available. <http://www.kansascity.com/news/business/article8179314.html>

KCUR Kansas City Public Radio - KCP&L Plans City-Wide Electric Vehicle Charging Network - 1/26/15 - The Kansas City area may soon be home to a network of 1,000 electric

vehicle charging stations capable of serving 10,000 electric cars and trucks. Kansas City Power and Light Co. announced Monday plans to create the Clean Charge Network in partnership with Nissan and ChargePoint, a charging station manufacturer. <http://kcur.org/post/kcpl-plans-city-wide-electric-vehicle-charging-network>

Kansas City Star - Super efficient apartments could bolster Kansas City's reputation -
1/26/15 - Ashok Gupta, program director of the Natural Resources Defense Council, has seen the launch of a public-private-utility effort, and he is particularly excited about one building project on the horizon. The big joint effort, the Kansas City Energy Initiative, was unveiled in June.
<http://www.kansascity.com/news/business/article8217459.html>

Des Moines Register - City Council chimes in on Water Works lawsuit - 1/26/15 - Elected officials in Des Moines voiced a mix of support and concern regarding the litigious route Des Moines Water Works is taking to secure clean waterways.
<http://www.desmoinesregister.com/story/news/2015/01/26/des-moines-city-council-questions-water-works-lawsuit/22361387/>

The Daily Caller - Exposed EPA Memo: Tie Fighting Global Warming To Americans' 'Personal Worries' - 1/26/15 - An Environmental Protection Agency memo sent to top officials implored the agency to build up support for its agenda by tying its regulatory agenda to the "personal worries" of Americans. <http://dailycaller.com/2015/01/26/exposed-epa-memo-tie-fighting-global-warming-to-americans-personal-worries/>

Joplin Globe (Mo.) - Spring River watershed group to focus on water quality trends -
1/26/2016 - Water quality trends in the Spring River watershed will be among the topics today in a public meeting on a proposed Spring River Watershed Management Plan.
http://www.joplinglobe.com/news/local_news/spring-river-watershed-group-to-focus-on-water-quality-trends/article_766255bf-0fd9-5965-b20b-3cff9ab246ef.html

Daily Journal (Park Hills, Mo.) - Public hearings planned for water issues - 1/26/15 - Mayor Dennis Parks reported to the Leadwood Board of Alderpersons on Monday that he is working to schedule public hearing dates concerning a proposed \$10 million bond issue aimed at helping finance city water and sewer system upgrades.
http://dailyjournalonline.com/leadwood/news/public-hearings-planned-for-water-issues/article_09fd9a21-93d9-5d03-bc3a-92a0067dbfa4.html

Topeka Capital-Journal - Agency heading toward concluding Kansas quakes caused by oil and gas practices - 1/26/15 - The leader of the Kansas Geological Survey said Monday the agency is moving in the direction of concluding recent earthquakes in the state are being caused by oil and gas production practices. <http://cjonline.com/news/2015-01-26/agency-heading-toward-concluding-kansas-quakes-caused-oil-and-gas-practices>

Wichita Eagle - Scientists to legislative panel: Fracking isn't direct cause of Kansas earthquakes - 1/26/15 - A legislative hearing Monday left lawmakers with no clear way forward for stopping human-induced earthquakes in south-central Kansas. <http://www.kansas.com/news/politics-government/article8166849.html>

Garden City Telegram (Kan.) - Legislature may take another look at RPS - 1/26/15 - Rep. John Whitmer says he didn't follow the ongoing debate on whether to repeal the state's renewable energy standards before he arrived in the Legislature this month. http://www.gctelegram.com/news/state/legislature-may-take-another-look-at-rps/article_ea197109-3b3f-5fbe-a05f-3a4b57072bb0.html

Lincoln Journal Star - NPPD awards \$100 million contract for nuclear fuel - The Nebraska Public Power District has awarded Global Nuclear Fuel a \$100 million contract to continue to provide nuclear fuel for Cooper Nuclear Station near Brownville. The fuel supply contract runs through January 2034 and includes nine reloads that will potentially provide fuel to the 810-megawatt boiling water reactor during its remaining lifetime. http://journalstar.com/business/local/nppd-awards-million-contract-for-nuclear-fuel/article_ba9c3dd3-67d7-59c1-9494-41ea20f4c0a7.html

Ames Tribune - CIP public input, housing requests on council agenda - 1/26/15 - The Ames City Council tonight will seek public input on the \$252 million Capital Improvements Plan for 2015-20, which details infrastructure improvement projects and features plans for the completion of the city's new water treatment plant and power plant's conversion from coal to natural gas. <http://amestrib.com/news/cip-public-input-housing-requests-council-agenda>

Salina Post (Kan.) - Legislature may take another look at renewable energy standards - 1/27/15 - Rep. John Whitmer says he didn't follow the ongoing debate on whether to repeal the state's renewable energy standards before he arrived in the Legislature this month. But as a new

member of the House Energy and Environment Committee, Whitmer said he anticipates being immersed in the debate soon. <http://salinapost.com/2015/01/27/legislature-may-take-another-look-at-renewable-energy-standards/>

Lawrence Journal-World (Kan.) - Crews to install more wells to monitor 2006 gasoline spill in Old West Lawrence - 1/27/15 - Residents in Old West Lawrence are set to get another reminder of a large 2006 gasoline leak that contaminated the groundwater in the central Lawrence neighborhood. Crews are scheduled to install another 10 groundwater wells in the area near Ninth and Ohio streets in an effort to monitor whether a plume of gasoline beneath the ground is being adequately contained. <http://www2.ljworld.com/news/2015/jan/27/crews-install-more-wells-monitor-2006-gasoline-spi/>

Fulton Sun - New NRC resident inspector starts at Callaway Energy Center - 1/27/15 - U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission officials selected Michael Langelier to serve as the new resident inspector at the Callaway Energy Center. Langelier's first day at the nuclear facility was Monday. <http://www.fultonsun.com/news/2015/jan/27/new-nrc-resident-inspector-starts-callaway-energy-/>

The Hill - EPA: States can't 'preempt' climate rule - 1/26/15 - The Obama administration told an appeals court that 12 states cannot preemptively challenge its landmark proposed climate rule for power plants. <http://thehill.com/policy/energy-environment/230702-epa-states-cant-preempt-climate-rule>

Hot Air - EPA director warns of vanishing snow due to global warming as historic blizzard approaches – 1/26/15 - In politics, much as with a Broadway chorus line, timing is everything. That's a lesson that current EPA Director, Gina McCarthy will probably take to heart after this one as the northeast braces for what is being described as a potentially historic snowstorm. <http://hotair.com/archives/2015/01/26/epa-director-warns-of-vanishing-snow-due-to-global-warming-as-historic-blizzard-approaches/>

The Guardian (U.K.) - What will it take to get businesses to support the EPA's pollution rules? - 1/26/15 - As it celebrates its 25th anniversary, sustainability advocate Ceres sets its sights on winning corporate support for the proposed US power plant rules. <http://www.theguardian.com/sustainable-business/2015/jan/27/us-power-plant-pollution-epa-rule-environment-business>

ClimateWire - Bloomberg, Paulson and Steyer release bipartisan report on climate change risks to Midwest - 1/26/15 - On Friday, the three U.S. financial heavyweights behind the Risky Business Project -- an effort to quantify the financial risks posed by global climate change -- published the organization's latest report to help people identify, understand and plan for the economic risks related to steadily increasing temperatures worldwide.

<http://www.cenews.net/climatewire/stories/1060012255>

Cleveland Plain Dealer - Climate change is Risky Business that could alter the Great Lakes, reducing walleye - 1/26/15 - Longer shipping seasons for lake freighters, but fewer walleye for sport fisherman and the fishing industry are just one of the distinct risks involved in global climate change. In its latest report, the Risky Business Project has taken a closer look at the economic impact of hotter summers, warmer winters and unpredictable weather on the Midwest, the nation's agricultural heartland and its manufacturing hub.

http://www.cleveland.com/business/index.ssf/2015/01/climate_change_is_risky_busine.html

American Thinker - Risky hysteria over summer temperatures in the Midwest - 1/26/15 - Another Risky Business report on climate change in the United States has been released -- this time focusing on the Midwest. The best way to address this climate alarmism head-on is to simply show the public the summertime temperatures for Missouri, Illinois, Indiana, Ohio, Iowa, and Wisconsin since records began in 1895 -- using data direct from the NOAA National Climatic Data Center database.

http://www.americanthinker.com/blog/2015/01/risky_hysteria_over_summer_temperatures_in_the_midwest.htm

Minneapolis Star Tribune (Minn.) - As Midwest warms, its economy will suffer - 1/26/15 - Climate change is real, and its long-term impact threatens the economic structure of the Midwest. That's the conclusion of a vast majority of climate scientists, data-driven environmental organizations and responsible elected officials fighting a rising tide of irresponsible denial. <http://www.startribune.com/opinion/editorials/289857781.html>

WDAZ Ch. 8 Grand Forks, N.D. - EPA Reports Oil Mixed with Saltwater in Blacktail Creek Spill - 1/27/15 - Reports from the EPA show oil mixed with the saltwater that leaked into Blacktail Creek near Williston. It is being reported as the largest saltwater spill in state history. Estimates show about 3,000 gallons of oil are producing a sheen on the surface of the water. <http://www.wdaz.com/news/3664954-epa-reports-oil-mixed-saltwater-blacktail-creek-spill>

Insurance News Net - Climate Change Poses Risk To Midwest - 1/26/15 - The Midwestern United States faces potential disruptions to its agricultural economy, and dangerous levels of heat in many of its largest cities, if climate change continues unabated, according to a new report released today by the Risky Business Project.

<http://insurancenewsnet.com/oarticle/2015/01/26/climate-change-poses-risk-to-midwest-a-587482.html>

ValueWalk - Climate Change Projected To Devastate Midwest Agriculture - 1/26/15 - Climate change will transform the Midwest and farmers and residents in urban areas need to plan for the changes or face increased difficulty, a new report says.

<http://www.valuewalk.com/2015/01/climate-change-projected-devastate-midwest-agriculture/>

Inside EPA - EPA's Revised GHG Reporting Rule For Oil Sector Draws Industry Suit - 1/27/15 - Oil and gas industry groups are suing EPA over its recently finalized revisions to its greenhouse gas (GHG) reporting rules for the sector, following concerns that the proposed changes -- which were prompted by a petition from environmentalists -- could be too expansive and would not allow enough time for the sector to comply. <http://insideepaclimate.com/climate-daily-news/epas-revised-ghg-reporting-rule-oil-sector-draws-industry-suit>

Huffington Post - Senate Democrats Join GOP Attack On Financial and Environmental Regulation - 1/26/15 - Four Senate Democrats are working with Republicans to help the U.S. Chamber of Commerce and other GOP-affiliated lobbying groups undermine financial and environmental regulations. http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2015/01/26/republicans-financial-regulation_n_6549228.html

The Hill - EPA chief heads to Vatican to talk climate - 1/27/15 - Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) chief Gina McCarthy is traveling to Vatican City this and next week to talk with senior Catholic officials about climate change. <http://thehill.com/policy/energy-environment/230851-epa-chief-heads-to-vatican-to-talk-climate>

The Hill - EPA issues new x-ray standards - 1/26/15 - Hospital patients undergoing x-ray procedures would be better protected under new medical recommendations from the Environmental Protection Agency. <http://thehill.com/regulation/230747-epa-issues-new-x-ray-standards>

Cosmos Magazine - Renewable jet fuel — not only green but orange-scented - 1/17/15 - The hunt is on for alternatives to fossil fuels. Electric cars are taking off. This technology won't fly for commercial aeroplanes until batteries become much lighter – but renewable fuels might work. <https://cosmosmagazine.com/physical-sciences/renewable-jet-fuel-%E2%80%94-not-only-green-orange-scented>

Press Releases:

Link to all R7 press releases: <http://go.usa.gov/Qx5>

Regional Amplification - EPA Awarding Grants to Protect and Restore Wetlands - 1/27/15 - Contact: David Bryan, 7433

Regional Amplification - EPA Helps 22 Communities to Meet their Sustainability Goals and Foster Economic Development - 1/27/15 - Contact: David Bryan, 7433

Regional Amplification - EPA Seeks Input on Federal Plan for Regulating Greenhouse Gas Emissions from Power Plants – 1/27/15 – Contact: David Bryan, 7433

Fact Sheets:

Link to all R7 fact sheets: <http://www.epa.gov/region7/factsheets>

None

Upcoming Administrator/RA Events:

* New additions noted with an asterisk

2/3/15 – Air and Waste Management Association – 23rd Annual Environmental Conference, Overland Park, Kan. Contact: Becky Weber, 7487

2/13/15 – EPA/MDNR Meeting, Sedalia, Mo. Contact: Gene Gunn, 7776

2/17/14 – Agriculture Future of America's On Tap Webinar Series, Regional Office. Contact: Katie Howard, 7861

2/18/15 – Regional Tribal Operations Committee (RTOC) Meeting, Lawrence, Kan. Contact: Patrick Bustos, 7969

2/23-26/15 – Regional Administrator/Deputy Regional Administrator Meetings, San Francisco, Calif. Contact: Julia Cacho, 7071

3/19/14 – American Society of Environmental Historians Annual Conference, Washington D.C. Contact: Julia Cacho, 7071

4/15/15 – Dole Institute of Politics – Public Service and Policy Session, Lawrence, Kan. Contact: David Bryan, 7433

DRA:

2/18/15 – Regional Tribal Operations Committee (RTOC) Meeting, Lawrence, Kan. Contact: Patrick Bustos, 7969

2/23-26/15 – Regional Administrator/Deputy Regional Administrator Meetings, San Francisco, Calif. Contact: Julia Cacho, 7071

3/2-4/15 – Executive Management Council Meeting, Washington, D.C. Contact: Dana Peters, 7444

RA/Immediate Office

None

Other Events

AWMD

None

CNSL

None

ECO/EJ

1/25 to 30/2015 – Case Development Training, Denver, Colo. Contact: Lisa Haugen, 7877

2/2 to 4/2015 – Talent Management System Training, Washington, D.C. Contact: Neal Gilbert, 7985

2/5 to 6/2015 – Chicago Heights Public Availability Meeting, St. Louis, Mo. Contact: Tamara Freeman, 7094

ENSV

None

PLMG

None

RA/OPA

2/5/15 – Attend Chicago Heights public availability meeting, St. Louis, Mo. Contact: Ben Washburn, 7364

SUPR

None

WWPD

1/26-30/15 – Drinking Water Data File Review and Program Review at Kansas Department of Health and Environment, Topeka, Kan. Contacts: Scott Marquess, 7131, Ken Deason, 7585, Neftali Hernandez-Santiago, 7178

1/26-29/15 – National Enforcement Case Development Training, Denver, Colo. Contact: Maria Morey, 7079

1/27-28/15 – No-Till on the Plains Winter Conference, Salina, Kan. Contact: Damon Frizzell, 7560

1/28/15 – EPA Region 7 discussion with KDHE regarding new or revised water quality standards, Topeka, Kan. Contacts: Karen Flournoy, 7782, John DeLashmit, 7821, Amy Shields, 7396

2/3-5/15 – 2014 State Revolving Fund Annual Review with Kansas Department of Health and Environment, Topeka, Kan. Contacts: Sabre Germano, 7026, Chris Simmons, 7237

2/4-6/15 – Visit water utility operator from Blair, Nebraska to work on Climate Ready Evaluation Assessment Tool Model, Omaha, Neb. Contact: Ken Deason, 7585

2/8-11/15 – 2015 Groundwater Protection Council and Underground Injection Control Conference, Austin, Tex. Contacts: David Garrett, 7159, Kurt Hildebrandt, 7413

2/10-11/15 – Drinking Water Program Coordination Meeting with Iowa Department of Natural Resources, Des Moines, Iowa. Contact: Neftali Hernandez-Santiago, 7036

2/18/15 – Regional Tribal Operations Committee (RTOC) Meeting, Lawrence, Kan. Contact: Karen Flournoy, 7782

2/19/15 – Water Security Information Presentation at WaterOne, Lenexa, Kan. Contact: Ken Deason, 7585

Des Moines Register

City Council chimes in on Water Works

By Timothy Meinch,

January 26, 2015

Elected officials in Des Moines voiced a mix of support and concern regarding the litigious route Des Moines Water Works is taking to secure clean waterways.

Water Works CEO Bill Stowe and Graham Gillette, president of the Water Works board of trustees, shared details about their intent to sue three Iowa counties with drainage districts feeding high nitrate concentrations into the Raccoon River.

At the Monday morning work session, Councilwoman Chris Hensley highlighted a lack of communication from Water Works.

"It didn't exist and I had to read about it in the paper," Hensley told Stowe.

She added that direct communication with the northwestern Iowa counties should have preceded the threat of a suit. Supervisors of Buena Vista, Calhoun and Sac counties received a 60-day notice of intent to sue two weeks ago from Water Works.

Hensley also called the timing unfortunate with the start of a new legislative session. She said the aggressive move, which aims to change state and federal regulations for agricultural runoff, could compromise other legislative priorities for the city. She said many people do not understand how Water Works operates independent of the city.

"We're up at the Capitol trying to get lots of things done," she said, noting that a lawsuit will only benefit attorneys.

Council members Joe Gatto and Chris Coleman said they hope productive conversation within the next 40-some days prevents the lawsuit.

Gatto questioned how Water Works envisions an Iowa that maintains its agricultural legacy alongside water quality and conservation.

Stowe pointed to Wisconsin, Minnesota, California and other states that he says strike a better balance than Iowa.

"What we're really looking for is for agricultural producers to assume the responsibility for their production and the cost that it's pushing onto our rate payers," Stowe said. "It's going to take a lot more than simply relying on the good intentions of producers."

Gillette said Water Works officials have begun conversations with Iowa Secretary of Agriculture Bill Northey, Gov. Terry Branstad and the three counties involved since filing the 60-day notice of intent on Jan. 9. They plan to meet with heads of the Department of Natural Resources Tuesday.

"We do not relish taking this step," Gillette said of the legal threat. "We felt we had no other choice."

Stowe has said nitrate levels in the Raccoon and Des Moines rivers reached historic highs this winter, prompting the operation of Water Works' costly de-nitrification system since Dec. 4.

That system is roughly 25 years old and will soon need replacement, with an estimated cost between \$80 million and \$100 million, if the nitrate-concentration trend in source water does not reverse, Stowe said.

Data from Water Works shows excessive nitrate concentrations peaked in daily frequency in 1999, 2002 then 2007 during the past 20 years. Daily frequency of high nitrates dipped far below average in 2008 through 2012, then jumped above average in 2013 and 2014.

Agricultural advocates have pointed to the year-round data to dispute claims about historic highs. Stowe said it's a question of how you interpret the data and consider seasonal trends.

"We've become somewhat accustom to that (nitrate) threat in the summer. We're not accustom to what we're seeing right now (in the winter)," Stowe said. "I am more concerned about trends each day, rather than each year."

Mayor Frank Cownie, who has become a national voice on environmental issues, applauded the Water Works' emphasis on conservation Monday.

"I appreciate quite frankly the work that you're doing to put a focus on water," Cownie said.

"I'm worried for the future. We've got to come up with standards."

Benjamin M. Washburn

Public Affairs Specialist

EPA Region 7

(913) 551-7364